CLAIMS

Claim 1: A composition comprising viable sporulated oocysts of at least one species of protozoa known to cause coccidiosis, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient, and at least one surfactant capable of preventing or reducing the aggregation of sporulated oocysts, wherein the composition is ~~sterile~~ substantially free of bacterial contamination.

Claim 2: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said protozoa are of the genus *Eimeria.*

Claim 3: (original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said protozoa are selected from the group consisting of *Eimeria acervulina, Eimeria maxima, Eimeria mitis, Eimeria tenella, Eimeria necatrix, Eimeria brunette, Eimeria praecox,* and combinations thereof.

Claim 4: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said protozoa comprise a plurality of species of protozoa.

Claim 5: (original) The composition of claim 4 wherein said plurality of species comprise *Eimeria acervulina, Eimeria maxima,* and *Eimeria tenella.*

Claim 6: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, non-ionic surfactants, and combinations thereof.

Claim 7: (original) The composition of claim 6 wherein said surfactant is a non-ionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of Tween 20, Tween 80, Triton X-100, Triton X-200, Tergitol 15-S-9, Tergitol 15-S-12, and combinations thereof.

Claim 8: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration of from about 0.05 mg/ml to about 10.0 mg/ml.

Claim 9: (original) The composition of claim 8 wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration of from about 0.05 mg/ml to about 2.0 mg/ml.

Claim 10: (original) The composition of claim 8 wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration of from about 0.1 mg/ml to about 2.0 mg/ml.

Claim 11: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said aggregation is at an interface.

Claim 12: (original) The composition of claim 11 wherein said interface is selected from the group consisting of a composition-air interface, a composition-container interface, or any combination thereof.

Claim 13: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said aggregation is on a container cap or stopper.

Claim 14: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises one or more dosage unit.

Claim 15: (original) The composition of claim 14 wherein each dosage unit comprises not more than about 10x the minimum immunizing dose of said oocysts.

Claim 16: (cancelled)

Claim 17: (amended) The composition of claim ~~16~~ **[[**1**]]** wherein said bacterial contamination is removed by tangential flow filtration.

Claim 18: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein bacterial contaminants have been removed from said composition at one or more step(s) of production.

Claim 19: (original) The composition of claim 18 wherein said contaminants are removed by tangential flow filtration.

Claim 20: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises:

Not more than about 0.8% by weight of alkali metal dichromate;
Not more than about 0.75% chloramine by weight;
Not more than about 10.0 ppm hypochlorite ion; and
Not more than about 1000 mg/1 hydrogen peroxide

Claim 21: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the diluent comprises water.

Claim 22: (amended) The composition of claim 21 wherein the ~~aqueous~~ diluent <u>further</u> comprises 0.5x phosphate buffered saline.

Claim 23: (original) The composition of claim 22 further comprising gentamicin.

Claim 24: (original) The composition of claim 23 wherein said gentamicin is resent in an amount of about 30µg/ml

Claims 25 - 27 (cancelled)